

SILVER

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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4. The terrific pressure exerted by the SED to enforce the compulsory deliveries has rebounded to their disadvantage. Their officials insisted at all meetings that the farmers should deliver all their grain and they would receive fodder, bread, or seeds in return. This did not happen. The farmers are now blaming the SED for the failure to fulfill compulsory deliveries.
5. All districts in Mecklenburg have received an allocation of seed grain and seed potatoes on loan, in order to be able to carry through to some extent the present program. The farmers' opinion is against this method, since nearly all have similar debts still outstanding from 1946 and they have to take loans of wheat once more, which they will have to repay with 5% interest. According to Order No. 72 of Marshal Sokolovski, 109,222 tons of grain and 343,790 tons of potatoes were loaned in 1946. 54,622 tons of grain and 172,190 tons of potatoes should have been repaid. They were not. From the 1947 harvest, 54,600 tons of grain and 171,600 tons of potatoes should be repaid by 1 September 1947. Mecklenburg was given until 1 September 1947 to repay 21,000 tons of grain and until 1 October 1947 for 56,800 tons of potatoes; this referred to loans from spring 1946. On top of that come the loans for this year to be repaid. It is quite clear that the target laid down for compulsory deliveries will be lower in 1947 than it was in 1946.
6. Numerous "new farmers" are giving up their settlements. In Güstrow district, there are 110 new farmers' settlements empty, for which nobody can be found as occupants. In Grimmen district, there are 1,000 settlers who have not a cow between them.
7. The building situation is also bad for the new farmers, owing to the timber muddle. In the whole of Land Mecklenburg, 700,000 cubic meters of timber are lying around: 400,000 in the railroad stations, 300,000 in the woods. Some of this timber is blue already and useless for building purposes. Nevertheless still more is being felled and has to be taken away.

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